



# MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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## LOS ANGELES RIVER SIGNAGE IMPLEMENTATION EFFORT BEGINS

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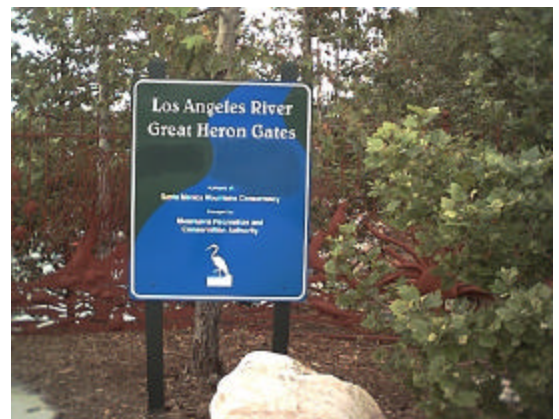
In February 2001, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works kicked off the development of Sign Guidelines that would complement the Los Angeles River Master Plan implementation effort.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accepted the task of drafting the guidelines and compiling comments from affected stakeholders. After numerous revisions, the final Sign Guidelines have been completed and will be undergoing an approval process for adoption as part of the Master Plan.

The Guidelines offer a unique signage design, including a heron logo and graphic background, which will create a sense of familiarity with the Los Angeles River. It is recommended that directional, regulatory, interpretive, and other sign types integrate the unique logo elements to encourage awareness for the River. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has initiated an implementation effort to illus-

trate the signage features and has placed entry signs at park entrances and interpretive signs along greenway paths. County Public Works will also be installing demonstration signs, beginning with bikeway directional signs along Fletcher Drive and Glendale Boulevard.

Overall, with the support from stakeholders and further implementation of the Guidelines, the continuous greenway system will be better defined to improve connections for River users. Signage along the greenway will also offer safety, historic, and other educational information that will increase overall understanding of the River and its resources.



*Demonstration sign installed at Fletcher Drive.*



## **RIVER MAINTENANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Los Angeles River Master Plan Advisory Committee has struggled with maintenance, liability, and security issues since the adoption of the Master Plan in 1996. As evidenced by the tremendous project implementation effort, stakeholders have been able to address these concerns on a per-project basis. However, the Advisory Committee has always recognized the need for consistent oversight of the River and in January 2003 appointed a River Maintenance Subcommittee to research long-term solutions for resolving River issues. The overall vision is that long-term funding be available for a management system that would assume liability and be responsible for providing maintenance and security services along the River corridor.

The Subcommittee met frequently and by July 2003 had developed a list of recommendations for management mechanisms (i.e. Joint Powers Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, Watershed Management District) and funding mechanisms (i.e. in-kind services, special tax, benefit assessment, etc). At a follow-up meeting in September 2003, the Subcommittee reached a consensus to consider forming a JPA. The JPA would consist of not yet designated agencies who would be responsible for obtaining funds for River needs.

In the meantime, it was recommended that the Adopt-a-River program be updated and promoted to encourage the development of projects along the River. To further assist with this effort, the Maintenance Guidelines (which are currently being developed) will provide maintenance specifications to guide organizations in carrying out a consistent maintenance effort.

## **TAYLOR YARD**

On August 15, 2003, the California State Parks and the City of Los Angeles announced their partnership for developing both active and passive recreational features at the Taylor Yard Parcel D site. Parcel D is a 40-acre area, which was acquired by State Parks after a victorious lawsuit against the site owner in July 2001. Following acquisition of the site, State Parks held the first public meeting in spring 2002 and solicited input from the community for the development of the park. Although it was explained to the community that the State Parks mission is to provide passive recreational uses, the community insisted that they wanted soccer fields among other active uses.

To satisfy the needs of the community, the State and City signed a joint planning agreement to lease 20 acres of the property to the City for soccer fields and other recreational uses and the remaining areas would be preserved for passive uses, such as nature trails and other natural landscapes.

On September 17, 2003, the State and City held a community planning meeting to present a draft conceptual plan to discuss the specific features that will be placed at the site.



*Aerial photo of Taylor Yard*

## **AD HOC RIVER COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Los Angeles City Council's Ad Hoc River Committee has brought an increased focus on City resources for improving the 30 miles of the River within the City. City departments/bureaus, including Sanitation, Parks, Transportation, and Engineering, are working with County, State, and Federal agencies as well as communities and neighborhoods to plan the City's involvement. Recent and upcoming developments include:

- Mileage Markers: In order to facilitate police response to illegal activity reported on the River, the City is proposing to paint mileage markings. This project is expected to pilot in the Glendale Narrows area, which includes Atwater Village and Elysian Valley.
- Cornfield Area Reconnaissance Study: The City is working with Congressmembers Roybal-Allard and Berra to complete the initial studies

for involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in restoration and revitalization opportunities at Taylor Yard, Arroyo Seco Confluence, and Downtown Los Angeles.

- LA River Revitalization Plan: The City is working to gather funds to create a Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan. The plan will include extensive stakeholder participation, complement the Los Angeles River Master Plan, and guide the development of projects along the River.
- Education/Outreach Coordination: The City has convened a task force to enhance educational and outreach efforts for River revitalization. The Committee's first task, underway, is inventorying current River outreach and educational efforts. For more information about current River efforts visit: <http://www.lacity.org/councilcmte/lariver/>.

## NORTH EAST TREES' LATEST RIVER IMPROVEMENT

North East Trees was the first non-profit organization to spearhead the development of pocket parks along the Los Angeles River. Their first pocket park project, Rattlesnake Park, was completed in 1997 and since then they have completed five pocket parks.

Their latest project is located in Elysian Valley at Meadowvale Street and will feature native landscaping, a river rock retaining/seating wall, and seating benches. The project is being funded through a Proposition A grant, administered by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Author-

ity and is part of a larger effort to improve River areas between Glendale Boulevard and Barclay Street. Currently, the project is undergoing permit approval and construction is expected to be completed no later than July 2004.



*Current Conditions at Meadowvale Street*

## LOS ANGELES RIVER GUIDELINES UPDATE

- The Sign Guidelines, which were drafted by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for County Public Works, were completed in August 2003. They are in the process of being adopted into the Los Angeles River Master Plan.
- Meanwhile, the Landscape Guidelines are undergoing their final revision process. The Watershed Council has dedicated numerous hours of editing the document to in-

corporate comments from stakeholders and the final document should be completed by November 2003.

- The Maintenance Guidelines are currently being revised, after the 80 percent draft was distributed for comments in July 2003.

*For questions regarding the Guidelines, please contact Maria Lopez at (626) 458-4342 or at marlopez@ladpw.org*

## A TRIBUTE TO MS. DOROTHY GREEN

### *Honored at FOLAR's 2nd Annual River Awards Dinner*

Ms. Dorothy Green received a well-deserved tribute on September 19, 2003, at Friends of the Los Angeles River's 2nd Annual Awards Dinner. Ms. Green was honored with a standing ovation by many friends and colleagues who recognize her life-time efforts in changing environmental policy and improving water quality in the County of Los Angeles. It was noted that many of Ms. Green's efforts were initiated in her living room and have grown into well-recognized organizations. Ms. Green's roles include founding President of Heal the Bay, founder and director of Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform (POWER), Los Angeles Commissioner of Water and Power, and founding President of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council.



*Dorothy Green*

## RIVER DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

**Dominguez Gap and DeForest Wetlands Projects:** In September 2003, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy awarded County Public Works a Proposition 40 grant in the amount of \$200,000 for the development of 30 percent design drawings and documentation for CEQA compliance. Public Works also submitted a full proposal for a grant from the Proposition 13 CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program, which was due on October 15, 2003.

**Ernie's Walk:** In August 2003, County Public Works began construction of the 1/4-mile project between Cedros and Kester Streets in Sherman Oaks. Construction should be completed by November 2003.

**River Signage:** County Public Works has fabricated approximately 20 signs that will be placed along Fletcher Drive and Glendale Boulevard, leading to the River. Installation is being coordinated with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. River safety signs are in the process of being fabricated and will be placed at gates along the River and Tujunga Wash.

**Studio City Greenway:** The City of Los Angeles is in the final stage of construction, which includes completing the irrigation system and planting approximately eighty 24-inch boxed trees and several other native plants. The project should be completed by November 2003.

**Valleyheart Greenway:** In August 2003, County Public Works began construction of the 1/4-mile project between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Radford Avenue in Studio City. Construction should be completed by December 2003.



## STATUS OF LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPOSERS
<b>COMPLETED PROJECTS</b>			
<b>Elysian Valley Gateway Park</b>	Community Park development at Knox Avenue by the River Rangers.	1996	SMMC
<b>Ventura Boulevard Landscape</b>	River landscaping on south bank at Ventura Boulevard and Kelsey Street.	1996	Richard Deblasi, community resident
<b>Great Heron Gates Park</b>	Development of pocket park featuring river rock walls, native landscaping, and benches adjacent to the Los Angeles River at Fletcher Drive.	1997	NET, FoLAR
<b>1997 Earth Day Event</b>	Tree planting along the River at Coldwater Canyon Avenue.	April 1997	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
<b>City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1A</b>	Bikeway from Riverside Drive to Los Feliz Boulevard.	September 1997	MTA, LADOT
<b>LA River Greenway II</b>	Tree planting and landscaping from Los Feliz Boulevard to Barclay Street.	September 1997	NET, SMMC
<b>Golden Shore Marine Reserve</b>	A 5-year wetlands restoration demonstration project. The study will be completed in January 2003.	January 1998	City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Dept.
<b>1998 Earth Day Event</b>	Tree planting at Valleyheart Drive off Whitsett Avenue.	April 1998	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
<b>Egret Park</b>	Development of park adjacent to River near Barclay Street.	Spring 1998	NET, MRCA
<b>Amtrak Project</b>	Fencing/hydroseeding Washington Boulevard to 4th Street.	1998	Amtrak
<b>1999 Earth Day Event</b>	River cleanup event in Elysian Valley (at NET's rattlesnake park) and a dedication of the Great Heron Gate at the Fletcher Drive access to the River.	April 1999	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles, FoLAR, USACE, others
<b>Los Feliz Riverwalk</b>	Installation and maintenance of walk from Sunnynook Drive footbridge to Chevy Chase Drive.	July 1999	NET
<b>LA River Center and Gardens</b>	Development of 6.8 acres of former Lawry's Center into an interpretive center.	March 2000	MRCA
<b>2000 Earth Day Event</b>	50 sycamore and cottonwood tree planting on Wrigley Greenbelt on DeForest Avenue between Spring Street and Willow Street.	April 2000	LACDPW, City of Long Beach
<b>Stealhead park</b>	Development of park adjacent to River and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
<b>Oso Park</b>	Development of park at the corner of Riverside Drive and Oros Street.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
<b>LA River County Bikeway Improvements</b>	Bike trail improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to Southern Avenue.	May 2000	LACDPW
<b>Julia Russ Asmus Park</b>	Development of park at Jaboneria Street and Shull Street.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
<b>Southern Avenue Bikeway and Park</b>	Bikeway improvements along Southern Avenue, from Atlantic Boulevard to the River and development of park at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Southern Avenue.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
<b>City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1-D</b>	Bikeway from Los Feliz Boulevard to Fletcher Drive.	August 2000	MTA, LADOT
<b>LA River Gateway Improvements</b>	Enhancements to access points, including landscaping and amenities to the LA County Bikeway at Gage Avenue and Florence Avenue.	November 2000	City of Bell
<b>River Garden Park</b>	Park depicting Los Angeles River at the River Center and Gardens.	November 2000	SMMC, MRCA
<b>Cesar Chavez Park</b>	Development of a multiuse park in downtown Long Beach.	November 2000	City of Long Beach

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPOSERS
<b>COMPLETED PROJECTS</b>			
<b>Dominguez Gap</b>	Development of wetlands study.	February 2001	LACDPW
<b>Water with Rocks Gates</b>	Installation of decorative gates on the east side of the River, north of Fletcher Drive.	April 2001	NET
<b>2001 Earth Day Event</b>	Landscaping of south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue in Studio City.	April 2001	LACDPW, SD3, SCRA, TRP
<b>Los Angeles River Bikeway/Greenway Study</b>	Study to identify a bikeway and greenway alignment that would connect the River between downtown Los Angeles and the City of Vernon.	March 2002	NET, LACBC
<b>South Gate Restoration Project</b>	Study to determine restoration alternatives for the west side of the River, south of Imperial Highway.	March 2002	NET, City of South Gate
<b>Taylor Yard Sampling</b>	Sampling of Taylor Yard site, including preparation of groundwater/surface flow model.	March 2002	TRP
<b>Tujunga Wash Hydrodynamic Study</b>	Hydrodynamic Study of Tujunga Wash for potential restoration sites.	March 2002	TRP
<b>DeForest Study</b>	Restoration study at DeForest Nature Center and at the 6th Street site in Long Beach.	May 2002	City of Long Beach
<b>Baum Bicycle Bridge</b>	Construction of bikeway bridge over River at Los Feliz Boulevard.	July 2002	LADOT, MTA
<b>Richard Lillard Outdoor Classroom</b>	Development of River improvements with an outdoor amphitheater.	March 2003	MRCA
<b>2003 Earth Day Event</b>	Landscaping of north west side of the River, at Owensmouth Avenue in Canoga Park, at the Headwaters.	April 2003	LACDPW, SD3, LA Theatre Works, Army Corps, Canoga Park HS
<b>ADOPT-A-RIVER PROJECTS</b>			
<b>Ernie's Walk</b>	Ernie LaMere landscaped and maintained a 1/4-mile section along the north side of the River in Sherman Oaks (between Kester and Cedros Avenues).	September 1992	Ernie LaMere, Community resident
<b>Village Gardeners</b>	The Village Gardeners landscaped and maintain both sides of the River between Fulton and Coldwater Canyon Avenues.	1999	Village Gardeners
<b>PROJECTS IN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION</b>			
<b>Chinatown/Cornfields State Park</b>	Development of 32-acre site into a State Park.		State Department of Parks and Recreation
<b>City of Glendale's Riverwalk</b>	Development of a Riverwalk parkway.		City of Glendale
<b>Confluence Park</b>	Acquisition and development of a park at the River and Arroyo Seco confluence.		SMMC
<b>Elysian Valley River Signage</b>	Design, fabrication, and installation of bikeway and directional signage for the River through Elysian Valley.		LACDPW, LADOT
<b>Ernie's Walk Expansion</b>	Expansion of Ernie's Walk to include additional amenities and planting.		LACDPW
<b>LA River Greenway (Taylor Yard to Sunnynook)</b>	Landscaping of a greenway from Taylor Yard to Sunnynook. Design complete, project being implemented in phases.		LADOT, DWP, NET
<b>LA River Headwaters Revitalization</b>	Development of an interpretive site at the Headwaters in Canoga Park.		LACDPW, SD3, LA Theatre Works, Canoga Park High School
<b>Maywood Riverfront Park</b>	Development of a 7-acre park along the River at Slauson Avenue.		City of Maywood, TPL
<b>Paramount's River Murals</b>	Two murals completed in spring 1999 and spring 2000, and a third is being proposed.		City of Paramount
<b>Taylor Yard State Park</b>	Development of a State Park in Elysian Valley.		State Department of Parks and Recreation
<b>Studio City Greenway</b>	Landscaping of a 1/2-mile stretch on the south side of the River, between Whitsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon.		City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks
<b>Tujunga Wash Restoration</b>	Restoration of Tujunga Wash between Vanowen Boulevard and Oxnard Boulevard.		LACDPW, MRCA, SD3
<b>Valleyheart Greenway</b>	Landscaping of a 1/4 mile stretch on the south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue.		LACDPW, SD3, TRP, SCRA